

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1 – 18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a first-router in a communication network comprising a plurality of routers, said first-router having a plurality of local interfaces to at least one connection-oriented non-broadcast multiple access network, said method comprising the steps of:

 assigning a number to each of the local interfaces wherein each of said assigned numbers is local to said first-router;

 grouping the local interfaces into connectivity classes;

 encoding information identifying the assigned numbers and the connectivity classes into a link state packet; and

 transmitting the link state packet to at least one other router in the communication network.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the link state packet is an OSPF link state advertisement.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the information identifying the assigned numbers and the connectivity classes is encoded into opaque fields of the link state packet.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the at least one connection-oriented non-broadcast multiple access network is an ATM network.